

The City's Stormwater Management Plan consists of six major elements, referred to as "minimum control measures," or MCMs for short. Specific measures to implement the MCMs are called "best management practices," or BMPs. During Plan development, the City engaged in an extensive assessment of existing stormwater management options, ordinances, and programming against NPDES compliance requirements. The City has five years to implement its Plan.

How can I get involved?

You can get involved by (1) learning how to keep our streams clean by preventing pollution (2) participating in City-sponsored public hearings and input sessions, and (3) volunteering for one of Alexandria's many stewardship events such as Alexandria Earth Day.

6 Minimum Control Measures of Stormwater Management Plan

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping



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Every day activities can contribute to stormwater pollution



Stormwater Management Program

The Stormwater Management Plan

Public Education and Outreach: The City will engage in a range of public education and outreach activities to educate the public and businesses about the impacts of stormwater on local streams. A focus of the City's efforts will be to provide information on steps that citizens can take to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution.

Public Involvement and Participation: Public involvement and participation is an essential part of the City's Plan. The City will provide an annual update to the Environmental Policy Commission and enhance the City's web site to make it easier for citizens to report pollution problems.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: By law, only stormwater is allowed in the stormwater system. As part of its program, the City will map all stormwater outfalls and develop a program to identify and eliminate illegal connections to the system.

Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control: The City will enhance its existing Erosion and Sediment Control Program to reduce stormwater pollution from construction sites. The City will now require all developers to control construction site waste such as litter generated by job site workers and equipment waste materials such as used parts and oils.

Post-Construction Storm Water Management:

The City will enhance its Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance to reduce pollution from development. Examples of stormwater controls include stormwater ponds, vegetative buffers, sand filters, cluster development to retain open space, and design standards that promote stream buffers and reduce impervious surfaces.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping:

The City is required to ensure that government operations are conducted in a manner that protects water quality. In addition to revising standard operating procedures, the City will develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for many City facilities.

Why manage stormwater?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 1996 National Water Quality Inventory, approximately 40% of surveyed U.S. water bodies are considered impaired because they do not meet basic water quality standards. In Alexandria, Four Mile Run, Hunting Creek/Cameron Run, and Backlick Run are considered impaired by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. A leading source of this impairment is polluted stormwater. Where does the pollution come from? It comes from different activities that are part of our daily routine. Almost every street, lawn, driveway, rooftop, and parking lot in Alexandria is connected to a storm drain. When it rains, the stormwater mixes with spilled motor oil, pet waste, pesticides, paint, grease, and litter. This polluted stormwater is discharged directly to our local streams, which eventually flow to the



Catch basins are neighborhood entry points to the stormwater system.

Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

What are NPDES requirements?

In response to the growing threat of stormwater pollution to water quality, Congress enacted the

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the federal Clean Water Act. NPDES requires local governments to obtain a permit to operate any storm sewer system that discharges to Waters of the United States. An important part of the permitting program is that each regulated government must develop a Stormwater Management Program to control pollution to the "maximum extent practicable." In Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is responsible for enforcing these NPDES requirements.



Underground pipes eventually discharge stormwater to a local stream. If the stormwater is polluted, our local streams are also polluted.



All streams in Alexandria drain to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Each year, millions of dollars are spent to clean and restore the Bay.